

PAKISTAN NATIONAL MARITIME POLICY FRAMEWORK

A Comprehensive Strategic Blueprint for the Blue Economy, Security, and
Governance

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Contextual Baseline: National Maritime Policy & Security Directives
Islamic Republic of Pakistan

1. Preamble & Vision

Pakistan possesses a strategically pivotal coastline of over 1,001 kilometers along the Arabian Sea, alongside an Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) and Continental Shelf extending across approximately 290,000 square kilometers. The maritime domain serves as the primary artery for Pakistan's international trade, with over 95% of commercial traffic flowing through major port infrastructures, namely the Karachi Port Trust (KPT), Port Muhammad Bin Qasim (PQA), and the deep-water Port of Gwadar.

Vision Statement: To optimize and secure Pakistan's maritime zones, catalyze the sustainable expansion of the Blue Economy, enhance regional connectivity under CPEC, and protect national maritime sovereignty through coordinated multi-agency governance and structural modernization.

2. Strategic Pillars of Maritime Governance

2.1 Sovereign Maritime Security & Domain Awareness

Safeguarding Pakistan's vast sea lines of communication (SLOCs) from traditional and non-traditional asymmetrical threats remains paramount. Strategic priorities include:

- **Joint Maritime Coordination:** Strengthening the operational integration between the Pakistan Navy, Pakistan Coast Guards, and Maritime Security Agency (PMSA) to mitigate piracy, human trafficking, contraband smuggling, and illegal fishing.
- **Coastal Defense Infrastructure:** Upgrading radar networks and satellite-based Maritime Domain Awareness (MDA) suites along the Makran Coastline.

2.2 Infrastructure and Port Modernization

The competitive viability of Pakistani ports requires urgent infrastructural overhauls to align with regional standards:

- **Gwadar Deep-Water Port:** Acceleration of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) marine projects, including the completion of deep-draft berths and integrated special economic zones (SEZs).
- **Digitalization & Automation:** Integration of Single Window Systems and automated cargo tracking across KPT and Port Qasim to significantly decrease vessel turnaround times.

2.3 Blue Economy & Sustainable Resource Extraction

Transitioning from standard marine usage to a sophisticated Blue Economy ecosystem involves:

- **Fisheries Sector Upgradation:** Phasing out destructive deep-sea trawling practices, providing modern refrigeration setups to local fishermen, and enforcing regular seasonal bans to restore depleted marine life stocks.
- **Offshore Energy Exploration:** Incentivizing public-private partnerships for hydrocarbon exploration and surveying alternative marine renewable energy frameworks (tidal and offshore wind) within the

EEZ.

Table 1: Institutional Resource Allocation & Matrix

Sector Pillar	Lead Executive Authority	Key Strategic Objective
Maritime Defense	Ministry of Defence / Pakistan Navy	SLOC Protection & Anti-Smuggling
Port Infrastructure	Ministry of Maritime Affairs (MoMA)	Automation & Deep-Draft Expansion
Marine Resources	MoMA / Provincial Fisheries Depts	Sustainable Yield & Trawling Regulation

3. Environmental Conservation & Legislative Action

Pakistan's marine ecosystems face critical degradation from untreated industrial waste discharge and urban runoff, specifically in the Karachi harbor area. Policy mechanisms require strict adherence to international maritime compliance benchmarks:

- **Decarbonization & Green Ports:** Phased implementation of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) carbon reduction guidelines, alongside updating local shipbreaking frameworks at Gadani to support eco-friendly recycling protocols.
- **Mangrove Rehabilitation:** Expansion of protected coastal biosphere zones along the Indus Delta to mitigate climate-induced storm surges.

4. Document References & Framework Citations

[1] Ministry of Maritime Affairs (MoMA), Government of Pakistan. *Strategic Port Operational Annual Frameworks & Yearbooks*.

[2] National Security Division (NSD), Government of Pakistan. *The National Security Policy (NSP) of Pakistan - Section VIII: Maritime Security & Blue Economy*.

[3] Pakistan Navy Hydrographic Department. *Official Charts and Limits of the Territorial Waters, Contiguous Zone, and Exclusive Economic Zone of Pakistan*.

[4] United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). *Resolution on the Extension of the Continental Shelf of Pakistan (2015)*.